

REMARKS

Following entry of the above amendment claims 1, 4, 8, 11-15, 17, 20-22, 24-26, 31, 33, 34, 37, 38, 40-44 are pending. Claims 2-3, 5-7, 9-10, 16, 18-19, 23, 27-30, 32, 35-36, 39 have been cancelled. Claims 17, 20-22, 24-26, 31, 33, 34, 37, 38, 40, 43, 44 are withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants amend claims 4, 11, 12, 13, 33, 34, 37, 40, 41, and 44 to focus on particular embodiments of the invention, add clarity to the claims, and correct obvious errors. Support for the amendment is found in the specification as originally filed. See, for example, the claims as originally filed.

The Office Action states that claim 40 is objected to because of the informality that it does not depend on any claim. The Examiner has stated that she interpreted the claim as depending from claim 17 for purposes of prosecution. Applicants amend claim 40 to properly depend from claim 17. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Office Action states that the instant application contains more than one invention that do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because under PCT Rule 13.2 they lack the same or corresponding special technical features because "the claimed method of treating starch with an alpha amylase and a maltogenic amylase is taught in the art by Veit et al. (US20040091983)." Further, the Examiner requires an election among the following groups:

Group I, claims 1, 4, 8, 11-15, 41, 42, drawn to a process for liquefying a starch material;
Group II, claims 17, 20-22, 24-26, 31, 33, 34, 37, 38, 40, 43, 44, drawn to a process for producing a fermentation product.

Applicants provisionally elect Group 1, claims 1, 4, 8, 11-15, 41, 42, drawn to a process for liquefying a starch, for purposes of examination.

Applicants believe that no other fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper other than those specifically authorized herewith. Should any other fees be deemed necessary to effect the timely filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1701.

The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment, election, or the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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